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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/643,566	08/22/2000	Hiroshi Tomonaga	FUJY 17.696	8947
26304	7590	12/18/2003	EXAMINER	
KATTEN MUCHIN ZAVIS ROSENMAN 575 MADISON AVENUE NEW YORK, NY 10022-2585			TON, ANTHONY T	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2661	7

DATE MAILED: 12/18/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/643,566

Applicant(s)

TOMONAGA ET AL.

Examiner

Anthony T Ton

Art Unit

2661

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 August 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2 and 11-14 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 3,6 and 18-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4,5,7-10 and 15-17 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2. 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claims **4-10** and **15-17** are objected to because of the following informalities:

Term "A packet switch claim" in line 1. It is suggested to change this term to "A packet switch according to claim" to be more clearly.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter, which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claim **3, 6** and **18-22** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

a) Claim **3** recites the limitation "the multicast" in line 4. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

b) Claim **18** recites the limitation "the scheduling" in line 16. It can be confused between term "a scheduling process" cited in lines 2-3 and term "a scheduling speed" cited in line 6 or line 8. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 3, 6 and 18-22 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office action.

5. Claims 1, 2 and 11-14 are allowed.

6. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: A combination of the prior art fails to teach a packet switch comprising:

an input buffer memory unit having a logic queue corresponding to an output line;

a control module for a first pointer indicating a scheduling start input line;

a control module for a second pointer indicating a scheduling start output line of scheduling target outlines;

a request management control module for retaining transmission request data about a desired output line;

a scheduling processing module for starting a retrieval from within plural pieces of transmission request data from the output line indicated by the second pointer, and selecting an output line that is not ensured by other input lines;

a packet buffer memory unit for temporarily storing a plurality of fixed-length packets and sequentially outputting the fixed-length packets;

a common switch unit for switching the fixed-length packets outputted from the packet buffer memory unit; and

an address management unit for segmenting an address of the packet buffer memory unit into fixed-length blocks for a plurality of packets, and managing the address on a block basis.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Citation of Relevant Prior Art

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The Patent number of the prior art listed below is considered as citation of relevant prior art in the field of the invention relates to packet switch applied to a cross-connection switch, a router, etc. and serving to forward fixed-length packets: Herring (US 6,606,326); Jones (US 6,590,901); Wicklund (US 6,295,295); Kilkki (US 6,219,351); Kaufman et al. (US 5,418,781); Moriwaki et al. (US 6,611,527); and Herring et al. (US 6,542,502).

Examiner Information

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anthony T. Ton whose telephone number is 703-305-8956. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00 to 4:30.


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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Douglas W Olms, can be reached on (703) 305-4703. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

ATT



KENNETH VANDERPUYE
PRIMARY EXAMINER